Dear Dave, 11/9/91

The racist excesses of the black New York Professor Jeffries have caused quite a commotion added to by his being tenured and thus not subject to summary firing. What he has been preaching is the most vicious anti-Semitism. I send this Post story to inform you in the belief the matter was not a special interest in your area and because of what I have observed, the blacks have been venting their anger on other minorities, particularly Jews in general and Asian merchants, in a number of cities.

I wonder sometimes whether those like Jeffries, who has a PhD and ought know other and better that he says, have hidden purposes, like promoting themselves for various reasons, including achieving leadership roles in the black community. He has to know, for example, if he knows anything at all about what he teaches, black history, that he lies in attributing the slave trade to Jews.

In general I think such racist excesses are counterproductive for reasons varying from misleading and misinforming the less educated black masses to discouraging support for blacks in their legitimate complaints. I am confident that after Jeffries Goebbels-like tirades New York Jews are less inclined to be helpful to blacks and I know for a fact that Jews were disproportionately numerous in the civil-rights stuggle era, from getting killed to taking discrimination cases to court. (My friend Sol handled on of the early housing cases and it happens that I was with him when he got the Supreme Court's favorable decision.)

I think this began with, or at least my first awareness of it was related to mom and pop grocery stores in pre-supermarket days. In some areas there may well have been a disproportionate percentage of them owned by Jews. Who were denied many other ways of making a living for racist reasons. (When I was young many institutions of higher learning discriminated against Jews and almost none would admit more than 10%.) The fact is that during The Great Depression many of those Jewish-owned grocers kept blacks as well as whites from starving. When my father died in about 1933-4 his customers owed him a sum that was once and a half times what it cost me to buy a very good house in 1943, when all prices were ever so much higher. The chain grocery stores did not extend credit. Much of my clothing was handme-downs from cousins and when I outgrew them and they were still OK my mother gave them to blacks who could use them. (In more recent years I have a black nephew and a black cousin of so long ago I am certain I have more black cousins of whom I do not know.)

Discrimination against Jews in my youth was overt. When as managing editor of my high school paper, for example, I as managing editor edited and published the paper without any supervision at all because the editor, a friend, was for scholastic reasons banned from all extra-curricular activities, and I won it the All-America honor rating at the Columbia School of Journalism, when the editor graduated I was not made editor. An incompetent who had been sports writer was appointed. (I broke her in and resigned.) Jews were blacklisted by college fraternitites.

During World War II, when I was a Walter Reed patient for about four months, and my convalescence had improved to where I was in the reconditioning center, at a former CCC camp in the suburbs, I led a sitdown strike because of discrimination against the one black soldier who had the bed next to mine. We were all - except him - to be taken to a whites-only swimming pool in Greenbelt. I hadly knew him. None of us went. We were helped, perhaps by his using his influence to prevent our being punished, by a southern white lieutenant from Georgia.

My belief is that in those days Jews more than other whites tried to be and were more helpful to blacks than other whites. It figures: Jews also were the visctims of discrimination.

While I cannot date the appearance of this widespread and rather virulent black anti-Semitism I believe it began about 1970 and coincided with a poem by a black that in effect called for kidling Jews and as a notorious Nazi woman did, making lampshades from their skin. This when broadcast in New York City created quite a stir. Free speech, etc. (I think the poet may have been Julius Lester and I think he later converted to Jusiasism.)

Until then Les Payne had been a good friend. Then, abruptly, he changed our relationship. It was very abrupt.

Many blacks have adopted the Palestinians and arabs in general, without regard to the history of Arab persecution of blacks over the ages or even today, when the Arab states treat blacks abominably. I know that Les was friends with Farakhan because he had me join then in a New York City TV talk show. His two sons are named Haile and Jamal.

In any event, if the past is any guide, when conditions get bad, as they are and will get worse, this kind of misdirected protest and vengeance-seeking will increase.

One of the immediate causes of black suffering and ~~xxxx~~ discrimination is the policies and practises of Republican administrations. The Jeffrieses do not inveigh against them or currently against Bush.

The ~~xxx~~ black nephew, by the way, is in Bill's family and it was always racist but with this woman and boy are not, are the opposite. The cousin is on my side, his mother's, and they are quite orthodox.

I assume the Post's reporter is black from the story. Jeffries is an extremist so of all the protest against what he did and is doing the reporter selects an extremist Jew and him alone and does that in a way designed to create ~~sypma~~ sympathy for Jeffries and to mislead the reader into beliving that complaint against Jeffries is unjustified and comes only from Jews, read extremist Jews or even all Jews are extremists.

Hardy